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AD837492
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SMUFD D/A ltr, 14 Feb 1972

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AD837492

TRANSLATION NO. 1446

DATE: 1956

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Fort Detrick
Frederick, Maryland

AUG 14 1956

1446

T-337-2

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION
OF THE RICE SEEDS IN VIETNAM

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Ris Rizicult. 2(4): 309-10, 1956

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE RICE SEEDS IN VIETNAM

I. History

The works of selection and of multiplication of the selected varieties of rice in Vietnam began with the creation of the Indochinese Office of Rice in 1930. This Office was charged with the amelioration of the rice-growing production in the three States of Indo China, but its activities were concentrated in Vietnam and in Cambodia. In that which concerns Vietnam, there were about forty selection stations spread out from the North to the South, nearly a station in each of the great producers of rice provinces. Each station furnished selected seeds to several farms of multiplication that produced seed beds for the rice growers of the province. In Saigon, the Central Direction of the Office disposed numerous laboratories for the diverse trials and studies having to do with the rice-growing branch: study of the soils of the rice field, methods of fighting against the animal and vegetal parasites, technological studies of rice...

The Indochinese Rice Office obtained very satisfying results, but because of numerous difficulties, these were not able to be popularized very extensively in the rural mass.

The events of 1945 carried a terrible blow to this Office: several stations were destroyed and, in 1946, only a certain number of selected varieties remained. Numerous efforts were made in the goal of recovering the scattered precious vegetal material. Towards the end of 1952, on the demand of the Associated-States, the Indochinese Rice Office was suppressed and divided among the three countries of Indo China: Vietnam received the locales of the Central Direction at Saigon as well as the stations, farms and provincial agencies that were found on its territory.

The Vietnamese government grouped the transferred goods and formed the National Service of Rice-growing.

Since 1952, thanks to the bases of American Economic Aid, this Service was able to begin again the jobs of selection and of multiplication in basing itself on the results obtained by the old Indochinese Rice Office and in putting to profit the works of the International Commission of Rice.

II. Selection of the rice.

In the beginning, one counted several thousands of varieties cultivated in the country. The first works consisted thus in reducing their number in keeping only the best ones from the triple point of view of cultural yield, factory and commercial qualities. This selection of varieties was followed from the introduction of good foreign varieties, from the pedigree selection and from hybridation.

Actually, the Rice-growing Service makes use of four selection stations: the Central Station of Mytho, that effectuates the works of selection as well as the diverse trials on rice, a station at Longxuyen for the floating rices and two small stations for the production of pure seed beds in Central Vietnam.

The principle works and trials previewed for the 1956-57 period at the Central Station of Mytho comprise:

- production of pure seed beds of single transplanting varieties;
- culture of conservation of Vietnamese varieties figuring in the World Catalogue of Genetic Rootstocks of Rice;
- selection of the hybrides indica X janonica sent by the Central Institute of Rice-growing Researches in Cuttack (India);
- return increases to diminish the sterility of certain hybrides;
- pedigree selection of 7 local varieties;
- trials on the beating down of grain;
- trials on the interaction of varieties - fertilizer;
- regional trials of varieties of a single transplanting in view of diminishing the number of cultivated varieties in South Vietnam.

Further more, 22 trial fields of chemical fertilizers and 7 fields of green dung trials were established in the provinces.

In that which concerns the study of factory qualities, the Rice-growing Service works with a small German rice factory merchant with electricity.

III. Multiplication and distribution of selected seeds.

For the works of multiplication and of distribution of the selected rice seeds, the Rice-growing Service organizes an agency in each of the great producer of rice provinces. Each agency is directed by a provincial agent, assisted by one or two associates and by several supervisors of culture. The locales of the agency are found in the chief place of the province. They comprise: the lodgings of personnel, the bureau and the store. Certain agencies possess a mechanical conditioner for the cleaning of the seeds. The multiplication farms are scattered in the villages and are governmental lands or private lands.

Principal of work.

The pure seeds coming from selection stations are returned to the provincial agent. He makes them multiply in the farms of "small multiplication". These are of two categories:

- 1) demonstration farms cultivated directly by the Rice-growing Service;
- 2) contract farms, cultivated by approved farmers who sign a culture contract with the Rice-growing Service; all of the culture works and purification work in the field are detailed and minutely controlled by the provincial agent or his associates.

After the harvest, the seeds are appraised by the Laboratory of the Seeds Control of the Rice-growing Service. The accepted lots are rebought and returned to the store of the provincial agency. The rebought seeds are then cleaned, sacked and then stocked in the store. Before each rice-growing period, the provincial agent and his associates make the rounds in the villages for the propaganda of the selected varieties; they group the demands of repurchase and the seeds are then delivered over to the store of the agency. In certain provinces, because of transport difficulties, the seeds are delivered to the common house of the villages.

The Rice-growing Service is actually made up of 13 provincial agencies and the multiplication farms of the 1956-57 period cover an area of about 2,000 hectares, with more than 600 farms and 61 varieties.